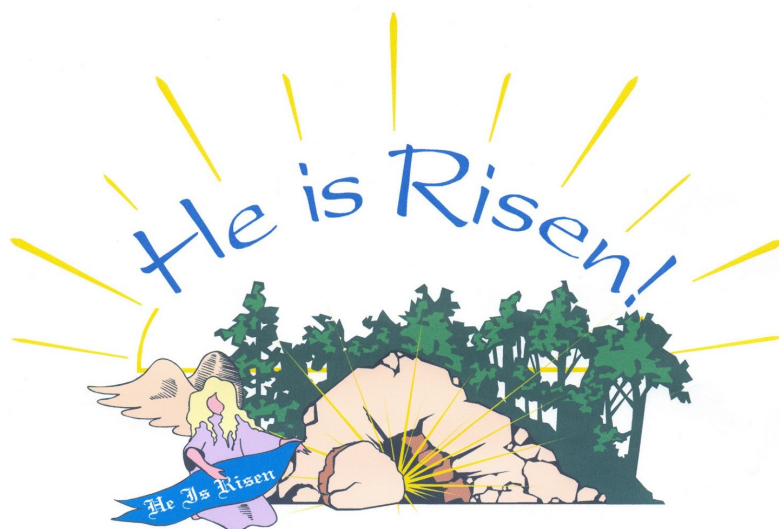


TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

APRIL/MAY 2019



**SUNRISE SERVICE
IN THE ROCK GARDEN @6:00 AM**

REGULAR SERVICE @9:30 AM

Mother/Daughter Banquet

The annual Mother/Daughter banquet will be on Sunday, May 5th at 6:00 PM in the Hart Center. Bring a dish to pass. Men of the congregation will be the servers. This year we will be honoring the "Mother of the Year" and our graduates.

Put May 5th on your calendar.



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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Towanda, PA 18848

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www.trinluth.com



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



**A Message From
Pastor Jira
Albers**

Jealousy, Envy, and Coveting

Coveting is so important to God that there are two commandments written in the Bible against it. Taken together, the Bible tells us that we are not to covet our neighbor's wife, house, animals, donkey, ox, or anything that belongs to our neighbor. In High School Sunday School class I often thought to myself, "I do not exactly know what coveting means, but I think I am pretty sure I have never coveting my neighbor's ox. I am safe there!" So, what exactly is coveting and how does it relate to other nearly synonymous concepts?

*"You shall
not covet
your
neighbor's
house."*

Exodus 20:17

Jealousy, envy, and coveting are often used interchangeably in writing and conversation, but they do have very specific meanings. Jealousy is what happens when what you already have is in threat of being taken away. When another woman gazes into her husband's eyes, the wife becomes jealous. When the friend borrows the motorcycle more and more so that the owner cannot ride it when he wants, the owner becomes jealous.

Envy is what happens when you want something, so you cause destruction in order to obtain it. When the guy desires the girl and tells the girl that her husband is cheating on her (which is a

complete lie) in order to destroy their relationship and make her available to him, that is envy. Envy is not just stealing the wife, but contains an element of destruction.

Coveting is similar to envy, and closely related. Coveting, in a biblical sense, is desiring something and taking action to obtain it. The Bible always pairs up a desire for something or someone with some consequential plan to obtain. It is, therefore, very closely related to the other commandments. It is coveting when you see the new lawnmower and then seek to steal it in the middle of the night. It is coveting when you desire your neighbor's wife, and seek to charm her into an adulterous relationship.

Coveting leads to stealing. It leads to adultery. It leads to envy where you do more than steal but also seek to destroy in order to obtain. But, it can also lead a person to offer as much money as is necessary in order to obtain what is desired from someone else. That would be an obsession that breaks the first commandment to have no other gods.

Thankfulness for what God has given is the opposite of coveting. Thankful hearts are beautiful to God.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"How do I get into reading the Bible?"

It is Lent, a time when people seek to grow closer in their relationship with God, so this question has naturally come up several times in the past few weeks. Most people will attempt reading the Bible from the beginning, but will get bogged down in Leviticus and give up. Others cannot see the point and will also give up. I never suggest starting in the beginning. I usually suggest starting with reading Mark. It is a short gospel (stories about Jesus). It will also give some immediate things to think about as Jesus teaches and provokes. — Pastor Jira



Parish News



PALM SUNDAY-April 14-service at 9:30 with the distribution of Palms provided by Bob and Helen Fleck.

Following service, a brunch will be held sponsored by the Vesper guild. Free will offering



SERVICES

Maundy Thursday-April 18 @7:30 PM

Good Friday-April 19 @ 7:30 PM



EASTER-April 21

6:00 AM Service in the rock garden followed by a Light breakfast.

7:30 AM Ecumenical Service @Wysox

Presbyterian Church

9:30 AM Regular service



Ascension of Our Lord-May 30. Take a few minutes to commemorate Jesus' completion of his resurrection and his return to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

Worship Highlights

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 14

Vesper Guild hosting

A brunch after service

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday-7:30 PM

Good Friday-7:30 PM

No Prayer Vigil

EASTER

6:00 am Sunrise service

Light breakfast following

7:30 am

Ecumenical Service

At Wysox Presbyterian

9:30 am Regular service

May

Ascension of Our Lord

May 30

Adult Education Opportunities

	Afternoon Fellowship Studying the scriptures while enjoying each other's company.
	Resumes April 30, May 7, 21 & 28 12:30 PM In The Hart Center

	Facebook- Bible Study at Trinity Towanda Bible Readings, Topics, Tips & Video
	Join and add your comments

	BOOK CLUB
	BOOK & DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED



Parish News Continued



CONFIRMATION

May 19, 2019—1:00 PM—7:00 PM

May 5, 2019– CHILD'S FAITH SERVICE



Women of the Church

Vesper Guild only meets once a month and it is usually the fourth Tuesday of the month unless certain circumstances require us to gather sooner. Our next meeting however is Tuesday, April 30. The Annual Mother/Daughter banquet will be on Sunday, May 6th at 6:00 PM in the Hart Center.

Bible Study will resume at 12:30 pm on April 30.

Caring and Sharing

Rachel Champluvier: has ben selected to attend the 2019 Pennsylvania School of Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) at the Pennsylvania State University. (The competition for admission is always strong, but this year it was exceptional. The selection committee was able to admit only the top applicants.) Way to go, Rachel!

Allie Champluvier: this is her end of Junior High Cheerleading and now on to Varsity cheerleading! Great job, Allie!

Brock Champluvier: Great job in his school's musical-West Side Story!

Satchel Manchester-has received acceptance letters from Binghamton U and Drexel University! Wow! Best wishes to him!!



ORDERS FOR EASTER LILIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. THEY ARE THE SAME PRICE AS LAST YEAR: \$8.00 EACH. Orders must be in by April 14, 2019. Forms are in the church bulletins or call the office.

Columbarium Space Available

As you make your end of life arrangements do not forget that the church has columbarium space available.

Thank You Members Of Christ!

- *Thank you to Ron Confer for taking out the garbage & taking care of the TOPS Food.
- *Thank you to Beverly Serfass for helping out the Altar Guild.
- * Thank you to Janet Seaberg & Lois Carrington for cleaning up after fellowship.
- *Thank you to Vesper Guild for serving the Lenten lunch.
- *Thank you to Thelma Allis for taking care of the Baptismal Font.
- *Thank you to Dave Estelle for getting a plumber & supervising the repair of the Church toilets.
- *Thank you to Cathy Bellanca for all that she has done for our church!

A Closer Look at the Bible – Pastor Jira Albers

(Exod 20:14[17], MT):

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

וְלֹא תַחְמֹד בֵּית רֵעֲךָ.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female slave, or his ox or his donkey,^[4] or anything that is your neighbor's.

וְלֹא תַחְמֹד אִשְׁתִּי רֵעֲךָ,
וְעַבְדֹּךָ וְעַמְּתֹךָ וְשׁוֹרֹךָ
וְחִמְרֹךָ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֲךָ.

(Deut 5:18[21], MT):

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

וְלֹא תַחְמֹד אִשְׁתִּי רֵעֲךָ.

You shall not crave your neighbor's house, or his field, or his male or female slave, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.^[4]

וְלֹא תַחְמֹד בֵּית רֵעֲךָ,
שָׂדֶךָ וְעַבְדֹּךָ וְעַמְּתֹךָ וְשׁוֹרֹךָ
וְחִמְרֹךָ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֲךָ.

I know what you are thinking, “Thanks for providing the Hebrew for me!” No problem. As we take a closer look at coveting, there are a couple of things that I want you to notice. The first is very basic: Hebrew is read backwards (from right to left). That is why the ends of the Hebrew lines match up on the right side of the Hebrew text. Now you have a little trivia that will save your skin in at least one turn of Biblical Trivia Pursuit. The second thing that I want you to notice is that the commandment (or commandments) against coveting are not the same in the two lists provided to us in the Bible. In Exodus, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house” stands as a separate commandment. In Deuteronomy, it is the neighbor’s wife who stands in the separate commandment to not covet. This has caused headaches in classification of the commandments for as long as people have been commenting on these scriptures (I dare you to try to figure out which are the ten), but in the end the classification has little spiritual importance.

One difference that is interesting to note is the discrepancy between the word choices for the second coveting commandment between the Exodus and the Deuteronomy versions. In Exodus, you are not to “covet.” In Deuteronomy, you are not to “crave” or “desire” your neighbor’s property. This difference in the Hebrew could be of significance because the Hebrew words for “covet” and “crave” are not the same.

Whenever the word for covet is used throughout the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), it is almost always paired with an action. Take Deuteronomy 7:25 for example: “You shall consign the images of their gods to the fire; **you shall not covet** the silver and gold on them **and keep it** for yourselves...” This happens over and over again throughout the Hebrew Bible. For the Hebrews, coveting is not just the emotional desire to “have,” but it is also tied to an action to “obtain.” The action does not even need to break another “thou shall not” commandment (like stealing) in order for it to be considered coveting. Desiring your neighbor’s motorcycle and offering an exorbitant amount of money in order to obtain it is not stealing or adultery or lying, but it is coveting. It is breaking the commandment to “have no other gods” since it is an obsession.

The word for “crave” on the other hand is an emotional state, but it is clearly not in both versions of the commandments. Therefore, there has been lots of speculation over the years from rabbis over whether the emotion is prohibited, or just the desire that leads to action. The majority of rabbis have concluded that the action must be attached to the emotion. There is no harm done with an internal emotion. Harm is only done if the emotion is acted upon. In the beatitudes, Jesus disagrees, emphasizing the minority view. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with *craving* has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). For Jesus, the state of the heart does matter because the state of the heart reflects a person’s relationship with God and others. Is God your god or is your heart set on another. “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” Jesus says. What he means is that being in right relationship with other people and not violating their rights is good (the rabbis’ view), but being in right relationship with God is even better. That is one reason why many Christians will say that coveting is a matter of the heart. But, technically in the ancient Hebrew world, coveting required action along with the desire.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2019 Freed in Christ for a New Day Saturday, June 1st, 8:30am-4:30pm Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites, Hazleton

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! – Psalm 118:24

God said, "Let there be light"... God saw that the light was good... and God called the light, Day. – Genesis 1:1-5

Jesus answered... "I am the light of the world." – John 9:5



For 2019 our Synod Assembly is a one-day event – **and what a difference a day can make!** All are welcome and all congregations are called and empowered to send two voting members and any number of visitors, as together we do God's work: sharing life, love, faith and hope for the new days ahead, as the people of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

This year we celebrate our past and look to our future, as we strive in this living present and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ – whose Good News has freed us to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors – all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

We gather in a new place: Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites in Hazleton. Our co-workers in Christ in the Coal Region and the Pocono Mountains look forward to being our hosts. A one-day event means costs can be a bit lower this year. Registration fees for voting members are only \$100, while visitors this year will pay \$20, which covers the cost of our special luncheon celebration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of our Synod.

We will also have another way to save costs and paper, while keeping us all up-to-date, with a customized "Guidebook App" for Assembly 2019. With just a simple, secure download to your smart phone or tablet, you'll have instant access to all the documents and information needed, as well as vital and helpful announcements and guidance. The App is free and available to anyone, whether or not you can attend the Assembly. More information will be given in next month's *Synod News*, and at your upcoming Mission District Assemblies.

A registration packet will be mailed to all rostered leaders and information will be on our synod's website at www.godslove.org.

God promises to shine on us the liberating light of Christ,
to make us alive,
to make this moment like a new morning,
and to send us out in joy, peace and power.

Join us in June as we are

FREED IN CHRIST FOR A NEW DAY!

Anniversaries of Ordination

15 YEARS

Dana D Heckman-Beil
Jean L Huber
Katie E Lyon
Maritza Torres Dolich
Michael L Reist
Anthony P Pagotto
Virginia Anne Goodwin

25 YEARS

Elizabeth C Langensipon
Eugene C Zeiser
Jeffrey G Bohan
Louise L Williams
Deborah Matern Graf
Diana J Hill

40 YEARS

Samuel R Zeiser
Christian P Matthy
D Michael Bennethum
Donald J Schwartz
Edith B Roberts
John R Kuschel
Richard H Elliott
Roy H Koehler Jr
Sherrie L Sneed
Thomas F Irwin Jr

50 YEARS

Kenneth C Feinour Jr

55 YEARS

Arthur L Hahn Jr
Donald P Beck
Harry J Goos
James C Papadla
John J Delsinger
Thomas H Reinsel
Thomas J Keener

60 YEARS

C David Godshall
Dale E Sandstrom
Elton P Richards
Paul J Hoh

65 YEARS

Robert F Sauer

70 Years

James B Miller
John M Aurand

St. Luke, Allentown Muhlenberg College Partnership



ELL students - Nely is third from the left

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in center city, Allentown hosts an English Language Learning (ELL) program. Trott Nely Montana, a senior at Muhlenberg, coordinates and teaches in the program. Nely majors in Media & Communications, and minors in both African Studies, and Documentary Storymaking. He is a member of a number of professional and student organizations including serving as a tutor, Emerging Leaders, Track & Field, Tour Guide, Adult ELL Teacher & Coordinator. When he is not participating in extracurriculars or at school, Nely likes to draw. Plus, he enjoys playing basketball with friends or personally training peers at Muhlenberg.

Nely took over the position of the program from Jose Flores, who was part of Muhlenberg graduating class of 2016. After observing one class with Jose, Nely recognized the significance of the program. He could understand and relate to the ELL students, because he too had taken courses to learn English. In addition to supporting learning and developing better English skills among local residents, the program offers Nely the opportunity to connect and form lasting relationships with some of the locals in Allentown and the church community.

After graduating college, Nely plans to continue school in a MFA and/or PhD program in film and hopes to become a professor. He also is interested in the external and internal factors that hinder low income, high achieving students from attaining a profitable education. Nely understands the trials of being the first member of a family to go to college, and he wants to provide low income, high achieving students with exposure to numerous resources, and access that would further their education.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

April 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Mason Kunkle
7 Michael Wallitsch	8	9	10 Betty Blatz	11	12	13
14	15 Brianna Brimmer Tammy Lockhart	16	17	18 Roger Blatz	19	20 Karen Troup
21	22	23	24 Katie Feusner Jim Philippi Richard Seaberg Jr Bob Stoudt Jr	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Susan DeWalt	2	3 Mary Ann Feusner	4 Eric Horn Christian Thomason
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Quinn Cantellops
12	13 Ruth Russell Robert & Lisa Horton	14	15	16 Cassie Gardner Mike & Melissa Cantellops	17 Rachel Champluvier	18 David Estelle
19	20	21 Peggy Cranmer	22 Tom & Helene Foreman	23 Isaac Albers	24 Joe Stoudt Mary Horton Peter & Sandra Hart	25
26	27 Brock Champluvier	28 Dan & Karen Troup	29	30 Matthew Dunn Christine Griffith	31 Duane & Aubrey Carrington	

April 2019 Meetings and Events

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 11:45 Lent Lunch 7:00 Lent Service	4	5	6 4-7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT
7 2:00 PM CONFIRMATION	8	9	10 11:45 Lent lunch 7:00 PM Service	11	12	13 Community Egg Hunt @1st Presb.Church @10:30 am
14 Palm Sunday Brunch Child's Faith	15 TAX DAY	16	17	18 7:30 pm Maundy Thurs. Service	19 7:30 pm Good Friday Service	20
21 EASTER 6:00 am Sunrise 7:30 am Ecumenical @ Wysox	22 6:30 pm Council Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 10:00 am VG 12:30 Bible Study Resumes				1

May 2019 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Mother-Daughter Banquet @6:00 pm	6	7 12:30 Bible Study	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 11:45 Wysox Lunch	15	16	17	18
19 1-7:00 PM Confirmation	20 12:15 pm W/P meeting	21 (Election Day) 12:30 Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 12:30 Bible Study	29	30 The Ascension Of Our Lord	31	

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv 265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Office Manager – Cindy Estelle 265-5184
Treasurer – Cindy Estelle 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor 265-3832
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Maureen Engelhard..... 247-2678
Peggy Cranmer..... 886-0705
Satchel Manchester..... 886-0890
Doreen Secor..... 265-3832
Joe Snyder..... 412-2796
Lois Carrington..... 247-7765

Contact *Trinity*

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Homepage: <http://www.trinluth.com>
Email: trinluth@epix.net
In case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Jira at
his home: 570-363-2951

Serving us in worship:

The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister

Altar Guild– April

Thelma Allis

Alter Guild– May

Maureen Engelhard

April 7-The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector–
Communion Assistant–
Counters– Doreen Secor
Ushers– Ruth & Ron Russell
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

April 14—Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Counters—Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

April 18– Maundy Thursday

Acolyte–
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Ushers– Janet Seaberg and Thelma Allis

April 21– Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Acolyte– Abby O’Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Counters– Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester
Children’s Church– Maureen Engelhard

April 28—The Second Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Counters– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Lois and Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Chris Griffith

May 5– The Third Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector–
Communion Assistant–
Ushers–Ron and Ruth Russell
Children’s Church– Eileen Alesky

May 12—The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

May 19—The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Kate O’Connor
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Ushers– Lois & Duane Carrington
Children’s Church– Cindy Estelle

May 26– The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer & Satchel Manchester
Children’s church– Maureen Engelhard

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

TRINITY TRUMPETER

APRIL/MAY 2019

“Challenged to witness and share Christ’s love with all”

Sunday Morning Schedule
Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

“Challenged to witness and share Christ’s love with all”

